

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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EASTERN

F.O.

371

1947



PALESTINE

File No. 470

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference:

FO

371

61864

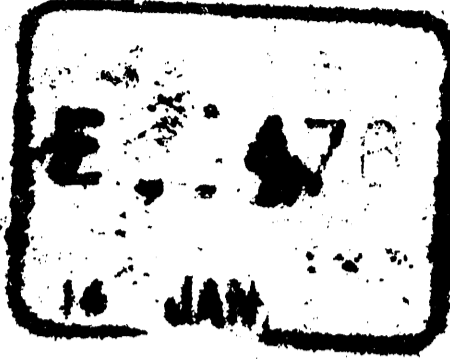
CLOSED  
UNTIL

1978

61864

1947

E



2

PALESTINE

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 470/470/31

F. J. Rayner  
War Office

MA/110

10 Jan 1947

14 Jan 1947

Information re Palestinian Army Personnel

Informs W.O. office are anxious to trace the fate of 3 missing men, gives particulars of men and of next of kin who are at present residing in Syria. Asks FO to arrange for next of kin to be approached for any information.

Last Paper.

No P.P.

References.

W.O.

(Print.)

61864

(How disposed of.)

Left. Shawcross  
Damascus

Jan 24

8/ W.O.

Feb. 3

P.J.O.

(Action completed.)

G.B. 1/3/47

(Index.)

16/1/48

Next Paper.

5739

(Minutes.)

Letter to Damascus (Please send

copy to War Office)

H.B. 257

8 p.p. W.O. letter MA/110 of 2/4

Letter to Damascus with copy to W.O.

H.B. 187  
14

8 p.p. W.O. letter MA/110 19/5.

Letters to W.O. and Damascus Blaney

5/6

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Reference: FO 371/61864

2A

Dept. of War  
Damascus (ene)  
of War Office  
Old Hall St.  
April 22.

Dept. of War  
Damascus  
✓ June 10

Dept. of War  
Old Hall St.  
✓ June 11

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2			

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61864

Tel. No. **Central 3781/2/3.**

Any other communication on this subject should be addressed to:—

The Under Secretary of State  
(as opposite).

and the following number quoted

Our Ref./..... **MA/110.**

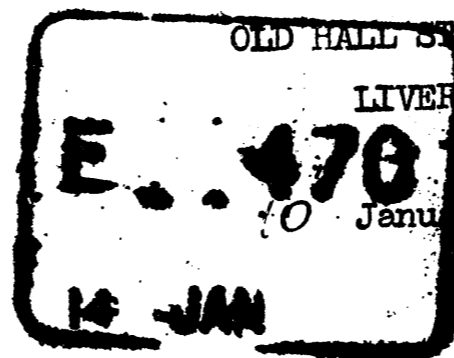
Your Ref./.....



THE WAR OFFICE,

OLD HALL STREET,

LIVERPOOL, 3.



Sir,

In connection with the enquiries which are proceeding in an endeavour to establish the fate of Palestinian personnel missing during the fighting in Greece, 1941, the Department is anxious to contact the next-of-kin in order to ascertain whether they are in possession of any information concerning the missing men.

The next-of-kin of the three soldiers whose names are given below are resident in Syria, and it will greatly assist if you will be good enough to arrange for them to be approached and asked to give full details of any direct or hearsay information they may have received. If any evidence is proffered by the next-of-kin, dates of the incidents and the names of the informants will be of great help.

1. Pal. 11408 Private A.H. SALEH IMBARAR, 602 Pal.Pioneer Company. Next-of-kin, Cousin. Abd.El Hamid, Amara Quarter, House Ahmad Said, Damascus.
2. Pal. 13500 Private N.N. ROUSTUM, 607 Pal.Pioneer Company. Next-of-kin, Father, Mr.Hajem Roustum, Malk Sarrar, Salkhad.
3. Pal. 12492 Private R.A.I. EL-EL KURDI, 607 Pal.Pioneer Company. Next-of-kin, Mother, Mrs.Asip Bint Abdu, Deraa.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

The Under-Secretary of State,  
The Foreign Office,  
Devonshire House,  
London, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

**FO**

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**61864**

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Registry  
No. E470/470/31

<del>Top Secret</del>
<del>Secret</del>
<del>Confidential</del>
<del>Restricted</del>
Open

Draft letter to  
Shamun,  
Damascus

OUT FILE

22  
4  
+ OC 24 Jan

Dear Shamun,

We enclose a ~~letter~~ copy of a letter from the War Office, asking for assistance in establishing the fate of three Palestinian soldiers, missing in Greece in 1941, whose next-of-kin are living in Syria. We should be grateful for any information you can obtain for us to communicate to the War Office.

Yours ever,

Eastern Dept.

N.B. 20/1

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Reference:

FO

371

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29/5  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

**OUT FILE**

24th January, 1947.

(E.470/470/31).

Dear Chancery,

We enclose a copy of a letter from the War Office, asking for assistance in establishing the fate of three Palestinian soldiers, missing in Greece in 1941, whose next-of-kin are living in Syria.

We should be grateful for any information you can obtain for us to communicate to the War Office.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

The Chancery,  
British Legation,  
Damascus.

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Reference:

**FO**

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Tel. No. Central 3781.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:

The Under-Secretary of State  
(as opposite)

and the following number  
quoted:

Our Ref./.....MA/110.

Your Ref./.....



INDEXED

THE WAR OFFICE,

OLD HALL STREET,

LIVERPOOL, 3.

2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1947.

470 / 470 31

16 APR 1947

Sir,

With reference to War Office letter of even reference dated 10th January, 1947, it will be appreciated if you will be good enough to state whether any progress has been made in contacting the next-of-kin of Pal.12492 Private El-Kurdi, R. A. I., and Pal.13500 Private Roustum, N.N., and if so, with what result. A reply has been received in respect of Pal.11408 Private Saleh-Imbarar, A. H.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

Atlay

The Under-Secretary of State,  
The Foreign Office,  
Devonshire House,  
London, S.W.1.

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Reference:

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3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry  
No. E 470/470/31

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Open.

Draft. letter to  
Shanicy,  
Damascus

Dear Shanicy,

Our letter no E 470/470/31  
of the 24th January, enclosing  
a copy of a letter from the War  
Office, <sup>and</sup> asking for <sup>your</sup> assistance in  
establishing the fate of three  
Palestinian soldiers.

We now enclose a copy of  
a further letter from the War  
Office on the same subject.

Yours ever,

Eastern Dept.

HB. 187/4

19  
7  
OUT FILE

April 1947

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Reference:

FO

371

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Tel. No. Central 3781.

Further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—

The Under-Secretary of State  
(as opposite)

and the following number  
quoted:

Our Ref./ MA/110.

Your Ref./ .....



THE WAR OFFICE, E

Old Hall Street, 9

Liverpool, 3.

d.  
19 May, 1947.

470 470 31.

INDEXED

Sir,

With reference to War Office letter of even reference dated 2nd April, 1947, it will be appreciated if you will be good enough to state whether it has yet been possible to contact the next of kin of Pal.12492 Private R.A.I. El-Kurdi and Pal.13500 Private N.N. Roustum and if so, with what result.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

Atlay.

The Under-Secretary of State,  
The Foreign Office,  
Devonshire House,  
London, S.W.1.

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Draft/ce.

Demandus Blaney  
from  
Eastern Dept.

OUT FILE

Foreign Office s.w.  
10<sup>th</sup> June 1947  
10

+ O C

Dear Blaney,

Please refer to our letter  
E 470/470/31 of the 22nd April,  
in which we asked enclosed  
a copy of a letter from the  
W.O. repeating their earlier  
enquiry about the next-of-kin  
of 3 missing Palestinian soldiers.

We have now had  
a further reminder from the  
War Office and should be  
grateful to know whether  
your attempts to trace these  
3 men have met with any  
success.

*[Signature]*  
5/6

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Registry  
No. E470/470/31  
J.E.C.

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<del>Secret</del>
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Restricted.
Open.

Draft. *ur.*

To  
The War Office  
Old Hall St.  
Liverpool

OUT FILE

Foreign Office S.W.1.  
12 June 1947  
12

Sir,  
I am directed by Mr. Secretary  
Benn to state, for the information  
of the S. of S. for War, that the  
enquiry about the next-of-kin  
of 3 missing Palestinian soldiers,  
made by you in your letter  
MA/110 of 10<sup>th</sup> Jan and  
repeated in your subsequent  
letters of 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup>  
May, has been referred to  
H.M. Legation in Damascus.

As soon as a reply is  
received from H.M. Legation  
in Damascus, it will be  
communicated to your Dept.

*[Signature]*  
5/6

I am,  
Sir, etc.

(Sgd.) C.W. Baxter

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Reference:

FO 371/61864

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N.470/470/31.

OUT FILE

S.W.1.  
19th June, 1947.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bevin to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that the enquiry about the next-of-kin of 3 missing Palestinian soldiers, made by you in your letter MA/110 of 10th January and repeated in your subsequent letters of 2nd April and 19th May, has been referred to His Majesty's Legation in Damascus.

2. As soon as a reply is received from His Majesty's Legation in Damascus, it will be communicated to your Department.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) C. W. Barter

The Under-Secretary of State,  
War Office,  
Old Hall Street,  
Liverpool.

13

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Reference:

FO

371 / 61864

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E

E 5739  
2 JUL

947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E 5739/470/31.  
FROM }  
No. }  
Dated } xviii/8/41  
Received in Registry } 25 Jul  
2 Jul.

Information re Palestinian Army Personnel.  
Refers to letter (E 1270/113331) Enclosed  
copy of note received from Lt. Gen. Ujj  
Foreign Affairs concerning photo of  
3 Palestinian soldiers.

Last Paper.

470

(Minutes.)

Letter to W.O.

References.

X/9

H.B. 37/17

In P.P. W.O. MAJOR/113331- 31 July.

Letter to W.O.

H.B. 11/8

In P.P. W.O. MAJOR/113331- 25/8

Please send copy as requested.

H.B. 2/9

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Not War Office  
em ✓ Reply 10  
from Mr. Bostel

opt. W.O.  
✓ Aug 15  
opt. W.O. and other pt. 18

(Action completed.)

G.E.H. 10/4

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

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15  
✓  
K

E 5739  
2 JUL

British Legation,  
Damascus.

25th June, 1947.

XVIII/8/1.

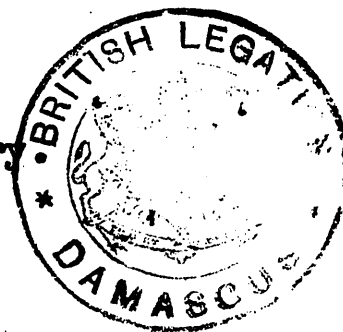
Dear Department,

Please refer to your letter E470/470/31  
of 10th June, 1947 concerning the next-of-kin of three  
missing Palestinian soldiers.

We now enclose, in translation, a copy  
of a note received from the Syrian Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs in answer to the enquiries we have made about  
these men.

Yours ever,

Chancery



Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

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Reference:

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COPY/TRANSLATION

16

Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Subject: Result of an Enquiry. No.C243(122/16/-)  
Damascus. 12/6/47.

The Syrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs present their compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Legation and, with reference to their letter No. 52 of 12/2/47 regarding an enquiry about the next of kin of some Palestinian soldiers, have the honour to state that as a result of investigations made in the Mouhafezats of Houran, Jebel Druze and in the city of Damascus, the following information has been established:-

- 1) Despite repeated search and investigation regarding Sayid Abdul Hamid, cousin of the Palestinian soldier, Saleh 'Ambrar, it has not been possible to find anyone who knows him.
- 2) As regards the soldier named N.M. Rostum, son of Hachem Rostum of the inhabitants of Salkhad, it has not been possible to trace his father in this Qadha nor to find any relation of his nor anyone who knows him and not even anyone in Salkhad of the Rostum family.
- 3) As regards the woman Assib Bint Abdu of the inhabitants of Deraa, when asked about her son the named R.A.S. El-Kurdi, she replied that she had received a letter from him in the year 1941, stating he was taken prisoner by the Germans at the Alemain Front and that she has never heard from him since. She did not produce that letter because she said she lost it.

The Syrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, while informing the Legation of the result of investigation, avail themselves of this opportunity of assuring them of their highest consideration.

His Britannic Majesty's Legation,  
Damascus.

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Registry  
No. E 5739 / 470 / 31

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Restricted.  
Open.

Draft.  
Under-Sec. of State  
W.O.

Copy of  
Enclosure to  
Damascus letter  
in E 5739

OUT FILE  
+ O C 4 17  
10<sup>2</sup> July.

Sir,  
With reference to your request that enquiries should be made in Syria for the next-of-kin of three missing Palestinian soldiers, to which an interim reply (E 470/470/31) was sent on the 11th June, <sup>Dam etc.</sup> we have now received the enclosed information from Damascus.

H.B. 37  
17

I am, etc.  
(Sgd.) C. W. Baxter.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO

371

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OUT FILE

18

E 5739/470/31

S.W.1.

10th July, 1947.

Sir,

With reference to your request that enquiries should be made in Syria for the next-of-kin of three missing Palestinian soldiers, to which an interim reply (E 470/470/31) was sent on the 11th June, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bevin to state that we have now received the enclosed information from Damascus.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) C.W. Barker.

The Under-Secretary of State,  
War Office.

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Tel. No. **Central 3781/2/3**

THE WAR OFFICE

Any communication on  
this subject should be addressed  
to:—



1947 E  
OLD HALL STREET

The Under-Secretary of State  
(as opposite).

LIVERPOOL, 3

and the following number quoted:

Our Ref./..... **MA/OR/113335.**

31<sup>st</sup> July, 1947.

Your Ref./.....

Sir,

Will you please expedite the  
reply to War Office letter MA/110  
dated the 19th May, 1947, asking if you  
will be good enough to state whether  
it has yet been possible to contact the  
next of kin of Pal. 12492, Private R.A.I.  
El-Kundi and Pal. 13500, Private N.N.  
Roustum.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*[Handwritten signature]*

The Under Secretary of State,  
The Foreign Office,  
Devonshire House,  
London.

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Registry  
No.

<del>Top Secret.</del>
<del>Secret.</del>
<del>Confidential.</del>
<del>Restricted.</del>
<del>Open.</del>

*Draft.*

*Under-Sec. 7*

*Stals, W.O.*

OUT FILE

20 12  
15 Aug 14

*Sir,*

Please refer to War Office  
letter no. MA/OR/113335 of the  
31st July, asking for a reply  
to a previous letter (dated the  
19th May) concerning the next-of-kin  
of two Palestinian soldiers.

The reply will be found in  
our letter no. E5739/470/31  
of the 10th July.

H-TB.  
11/8

I am, etc.

(Sgd.) H. Bealey.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO

371

61864

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OUT FILE

Foreign Office, 21

**B** 5739/470/31

S.W.1.

15th August, 1947.

Sir,

Please refer to War Office letter No. MA/OR/113335 of the 31st July, asking for a reply to a previous letter (dated the 19th May) concerning the next-of-kin of two Palestinian soldiers.

2. The reply will be found in our letter No. B 5739/470/31 of the 10th July.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*(Sect.) H. Bealey.*

Under Secretary of State,  
War Office.

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Reference:

**FO**

371

61864

Tel. No. **Central 3781/2/3.**

Any further communication on  
this subject should be addressed  
to:

The Under-Secretary of State  
(as opposite).

and the following number quoted

Our Ref. **MA/OR/113335**

Your Ref./.....



THE WAR OFFICE

*22*  
OLD HALL STREET,  
*END*  
LIVERPOOL, 3.

*su.*  
25 August, 1947.

Sir,

*5739 470 31*

With reference to your letter E5739/470/31  
dated 15th August, 1947, in respect of  
Pal 12492 Private R.A.I. El-Kurdi, and  
Pal 13500 Private N.M. Roustum, no trace can  
be found of your letter <sup>No. E5739/470/31 of the 10th July</sup> having been received  
in this Office, will you please be good enough  
to forward a copy.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

The Under-Secretary of State,  
The Foreign Office,  
Devonshire House,  
London.

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